

Media Release
October 26, 2006

At approximately 1:20 p.m. this afternoon, Sheridan County Sheriff James Johnson was shot and killed in the line of duty. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation is assisting in the investigation and numerous local law enforcement agencies are assisting.

Sheriff Johnson was interviewing an individual regarding possible civil commitment at the Sheridan county sheriff's office in Hoxie, Kansas when the individual pulled a handgun and shot the sheriff. A deputy responded and shot and killed the suspect. The deceased suspect has been identified as Steven Paul Reitcheck, DOB 11/16/1970 of rural Sheridan county.

Sheriff Johnson, 54 years of age, was elected Sheridan County Sheriff in 1988 after having served with the Hoxie police department. Sheriff Johnson leaves behind his wife Linda and five adult children.

The investigation is continuing and no more information will be released this evening.

The county clerk swore in Allan Weber, Gove county sheriff, as interim county sheriff and surrounding agencies are providing dispatch and patrol assistance.

Contact information:

Kyle Smith

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Deputy Director

Kansas Bureau of Investigation